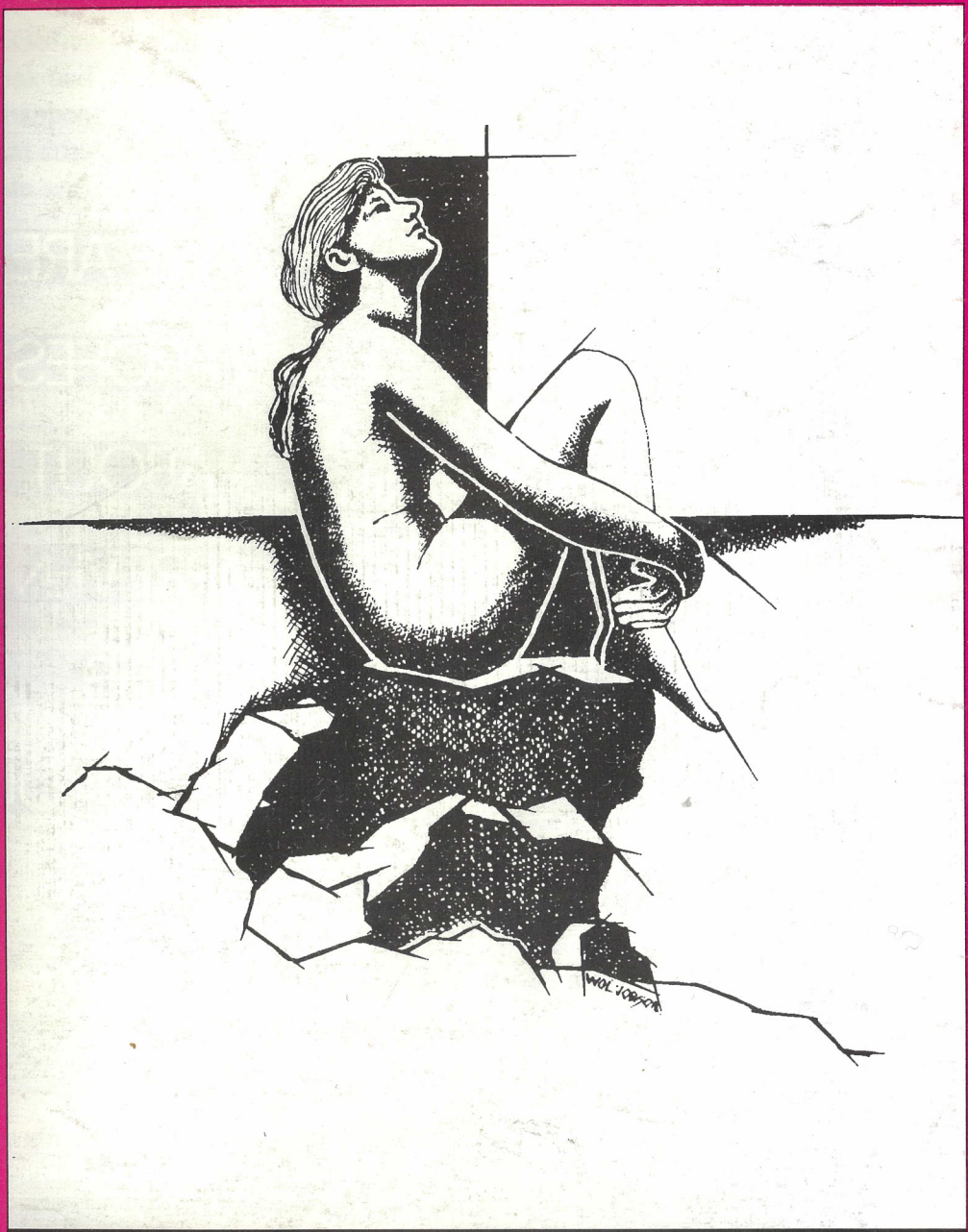
NZPC

THIS Issue
"Work Safe-Play Safe"

Sex Industry Rights & Education Network

SIREN

Magazine for Sex Industry Workers



Issue 2/1990

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NZ Prostitutes Collective
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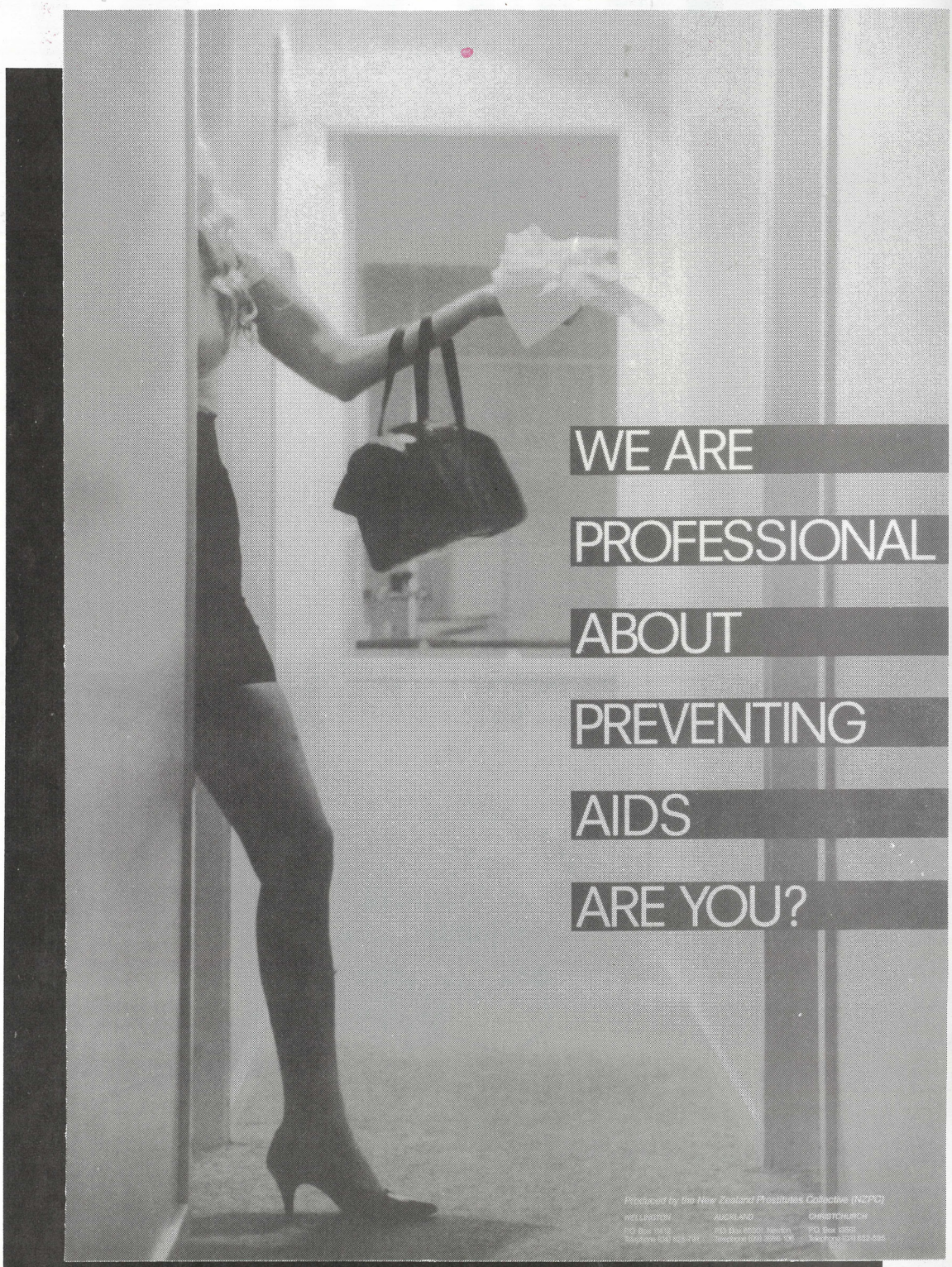
New Stocks of your NZPC Poster are here!



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SIREN

Sex Industry Rights & Education Network

October 1990

14 Cover Feature

Condoms - this issue we look at condoms and clients. How to tell him "No Joe - No Go". Why condoms break and how to prevent it happening. We also look at condoms at home - safe sex doesn't stop in the parlour - and give an easy guide to the oral 'condom roll.'

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A male escort talks about his job.

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Why you should have them, and how often.

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Does Doris Day have safe sex? Do the quiz and find out.

25 Sexual Assault
Information about who to call for counselling and support.

We're really pleased with this issue of "SIREN" - we've had lots of compliments on our "new look" and better still, lots of contributions from all sides of the sex industry in Aotearoa - from transpersons to clients, workers from massage parlours to gay escorts - as well as input from organisations that affect the industry.

Deadline: Thanks to everyone who helped with this issue. The next issue of SIREN comes out in December, and our deadline is 21 November. Send your ideas and contributions to:

SIREN Magazine
NZPC
PO Box 11-412,
Manners Street
WELLINGTON.

Disclaimer: *Opinions expressed or information given in this magazine are not necessarily those of the NZ Prostitutes Collective.*

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Comment from a parlour owner

Thank you for sending me several copies of the 1990 edition of SIREN.

I enjoyed reading SIREN and gave all of my girls one each to read, I also left 3 copies in the lounge for clients to read.

Four of my clients, after reading "Shift Fee Boycott" on page 24, commented on how mean it was for me and parlour owners to charge girls shift fees. I had much pleasure in informing him that I do not and never will charge girls a shift fee.

It's quite simple really – NO GIRLS MEANS NO BUSINESS!!!

It's the same principle as asking an office workers to bring in her own typewriter, supply her own paper and pay a fee for being there each day.

All working girls work damn hard for their money, and at times put up with a hell of a lot of crap from clients.

In my view, they put up with enough just trying to do their jobs as best they can, so why make working in parlours any more difficult by ripping them off.

I personally could not live with myself if I started the "shift fee capers."

Some other client comments were that they never realised how much girls had to put up with until reading SIREN, especially with hassles from clients not wanting to wear condoms.

Posters

I have put 5 of your posters up around my parlour, and most clients have said that the posters make them feel safe being here.

Three clients said that the posters put them off, as they reminded them of that dreaded word – AIDS. I thanked them for their remarks, and (of course!) very gently talked them into going through for a massage.

All three of them have been back more than once.

To the manager who wrote in under the heading "A Manager's View" on page 18, I say "Keep up the good work." This is one parlour owner who agrees with everything that you wrote."

I like my parlour to have a happy atmosphere and happy girls gives it just that.

Happy atmosphere, means happy girls — which in turn means happy clients and therefore, the girls will want to come to work – and not dread it – and the clients will want to come back – and do.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK P.C.–

IT CAN'T BE EASY!

LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR NEXT

EDITION OF SIREN.

DEBBIE PURDY

We would like to express our sorrow at the death of Debbie in Edinburgh Street. She was a worker and a friend to all the workers on the street.

Debbie will be remembered with affection. We all know the risks we run on the street, she too had been threatened and knew that it could happen.

Just the same, Debbie carried on working with this knowledge, showing that she was a very brave woman.

nzpc addresses

• Auckland - 227A Symonds St, Phone (09) 3666-106 — **Ask for** Claire

• Wellington - 282 Cuba St, Phone (04) 828-791 — **Ask for** Catherine, Sue or Kayla

• Christchurch - Phone (03) 652-595 — **Ask for** Anna

• Dunedin - Phone (024) 792-300 — **Ask for** Wendy

keeping it up ...

Recently, SIREN had the opportunity to interview a male escort. We wanted to find out just how similarly (or differently) "working men" relate to their jobs.

Aaron is 28 years old with a female partner and a young child. He first started working at the age of 16. I asked how he got involved with the sex industry; what makes men realise that sex can be a commodity for them also. He told me that as a teenager, he was offered money for hand-relief in a public toilet. There was nothing to it, in fact it all seemed too easy, he remembers. One thing led to another ...and soon he was using prostitution to subsidise his dole.

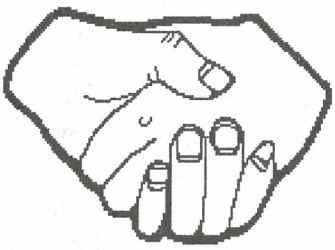
Aaron says that, at this stage, he had no intention of staying in the industry, it was merely a short-term option until he 'chose' to do something else, better, different.

Like many of us, Aaron felt he was leading a double life. His family didn't know and he drifted from various relationships back to sex work for several years.

In order to cope with the trauma of the death of several friends, Aaron assumed a transperson identity. A new identity meant to him a new start. However, two years of working in Australia as a drag queen taught him that this didn't really change things. Leaving his problems behind, without dealing with them, he found, did not make them go away. After counselling, he resumed his identity and started working as a gay escort.

I asked him whether he thought the problems faced by a transperson, or a male sex worker, differed greatly from those that women sex workers are aware of.

It probably wouldn't surprise you to read that , to clients, gay escorts are still sex objects who, having been bought, are their "property" for that half hour. yet there still doesn't seem to be the same stigma attached to their work.



Aaron thinks that the physical demands placed on male prostitutes are greater. After six clients in one evening, ejaculation is nearly impossible and even an erection becomes hard to sustain. Yet the client is, naturally dissatisfied "and these guys just gotta try harder."

The obvious question here is "how does he do it?" Fantasy, fantasy and yet more fantasy seems to be the only way, but as Aaron says, this can sometimes be a dangerous practice. The more he has to put into his work, the more he is at risk of losing part of himself. Being unable to distinguish "himself" from the work is very hard to and, in his own words; "makes [him] feel like shit!"

He thinks while all gay escorts need to be consummate actors, they also need to guard against being immersed in their roles.

Obviously, Aaron doesn't see himself as being different from anyone else, despite the nature of his work. he thinks that, aside from the many vagaries of human nature he is exposed to, it is other people's perceptions (and preconceptions) of sex work that set him apart from others.

Now, managing a busy"comprehensive" escort agency, Aaron feels that he is more aware of the needs of both clients and staff than many other proprietors are. The use of condoms and Safe Sex practices are mandatory and rigidly enforced in his established. needless to say, clients who object are blacklisted and circulated.

He sees this responsibility as being up to both clients and staff; any staff who don't conform are, consequently, off his books. A bit harsh? Not according to Aaron, who sees the HIV/AIDS threat as one which affects the whole sex industry and he is more than happy to give out information and network referrals to anyone who wants them. ■

LETTERS

NZPC in AUCKLAND

Kia-ora, I compliment you on your new style of magazine (Siren) the format, compilation, and information is great.

How are you all down in the blustery south? – we up here are all fine. The girls up here are all responding well to the Collective, – we have gained the trust of the workers, and most are aware of who we are and what we do.

Anyway, my name is Roxanne (yes possums, I'm still here) and I have been working for N.Z.P.C. for nearly a year now in Auckland. My job is to help run the drop-in centre in Pitt Street, with Helen who is also a volunteer worker. We distribute condoms and information pamphlets to the workers on the street.

Before coming to the Collective, I knew nothing about safe sex – cracking it with no protection did not bother me. But now I know better, and try to help those who might be in the same situation, as I once was.

Ladies, the Collective is an asset to all, in the fight against sexually transmitted diseases. It is the lifeline of the Industry. Ka kite ano

Roxanne (Transexual)

◆

A CLIENT WRITES...

I am one of a massage parlours clients, the only way of preventing HIV is using a condom during sex.

Once I went into the lounge, I started to talk about safe sex and the correct way to put a condom on, I nearly got asked to leave the massage parlour.

What the present law is doing, is pushing the industry underground, which is causingstress. Decriminalising would promote the proper use of condoms, stop women from being raped and cut down violence and stress in the community.

Yours faithfully

Name withheld

Editor's note: While we agree with the comments about safe sex, overseas excperience shows that decriminalising the sex industry will have no effect on rape statistics. Rape is about power, not sex.

◆

D.R.U.G.S

Drugs, my main downfall in the seven years I've lived in Wellington.

During the seven years, I've had good and bad times; most of the bad, Drug-related.

Drugs, in my mind are like a scale, starting with mild drugs with little intake, then heavier, with increased intake.

Finally, back down the scale with the intention of giving them up, also known as weaning off.

I often took drugs to cope with my job as a prostitute, also relationship problems, as a trend, to paint the town red, and even at times to forget things, which always caught up with me.

Having friends who took drugs wasn't easy in the process of giving them up.

I took the option of making new, different friends. That helped a little bit, so then I took up sport (netball) which helped a lot to regain my health. I'm doing well at netball, even making it into the Wellington reps.

I haven't given up on my friends who use drugs, I'm just all the more the wiser.

This didn't happen overnight, it was a time bidding and stressful position to be in.

Fortunately, I'm doing well, active in my sports and feeling really good within myself.

Yours sincerely

A.N.T.I-D.R.U.G.S.

PS: Drugs are nothing but trouble and wasted time.

◆

NZPC Opens in Dunedin

Hi!

I'm Lisa and I've just spent two days in Wellington at the NZPC, which shares a building with WIDE and NPLWA. It's great, it's well-used and is a hive of activity.

Wot's even better is a branch of NZPC starting up in Dunedin, which you can contact through DIVA; just ask for Wendy or Liz or me (Lisa). If no-one is there, please leave a message on the answerphone, and someone will get back to you.

The Dunedin NZPC hopes, in time, to provide the atmosphere and support services as Wellington. We also hope that it will be welcomed and used by the sex workers in Dunedin, as it has been here.

All my regards and thanks to the NZPC workers in Wellington.

Lisa

◆

Shift-Fee Democracy?

To the Manager,

...who phoned in and said her staff had voted in a shift-fee allowance to cover a contra-deal on credit cards. Sounds like democracy is at play in your parlour! And yes we know there are honest and fair parlour owners out there - along with the rip off ones.

Anon

◆

DUNEDIN CENTRE FOR SEX INDUSTRY WORKERS

Hi!!

I'd like to introduce myself to "SIREN" readers, especially those from Dunedin.

My name is Wendy, and I'll be co-ordinating the NZPC Centre in Dunedin, which we hope to have running by mid to late November.

Until then, I have other commitments which keep me pretty busy.

If you want to be involved with the Dunedin Centre give me a ring on (Dunedin 024) ph. 792-300. We have an answer phone which will take a message if I'm not there, or just give me a ring to chat, or pop into DIVA (Dunedin's after hours Needle Exchange).

By the way, for those of you who aren't familiar with DIVA, it's at 24A London St, just up from the "Albert Arms Tavern". We will probably continue to share premises with DIVA, but no doubt move to larger premises when these can be found.

It's amazing how small minded, and prejudiced landlords can be, when we tell them that we're running an after hours Needle Exchange and Prostitutes Collective!!

I'd be really grateful for your tips and co-operation, while I run the Dunedin Centre. I've worked with DIVA for about a year and a half now, so am familiar with HIV/AIDS prevention, but am relatively new to Prostitutes Collective work/working with Sex Industry workers.

Be seeing you all soon,

Wendy.

"ON THE SHIPS"

Hi! I am writing this to share with everyone my experiences as a sex worker.

There are many labels you can be given in the sex industry.

First of all, let me explain. You have your different preferences, ones that work in the parlours, on the street, on the ships and so on and so on. My experiences have been many, but the one I feel most comfortable with, is on the ships.

Before the AIDS virus hit, I used to be called an "international mole" That is, a person who goes with anyone who has the money. Let me explain to you how it works on the ship scene. You have your different categories that you are placed in...

a) *International workers* (who go with all)
b) *Asian workers* (workers who only go with Asians (eg Chinese, Japanese etc, etc.)
c) *K! Road* (workers who only go with Koreans)
d) *Whites only* (they only go with Scandinavians, English, Europeans etc.)

So when the AIDS virus first came to our attention, I then decided to play it safe - I started to go only with Asians, and was then labelled "an Asian worker." My experiences with Asians are that they are very clean people, and most importantly of all, they usually insist on wearing of condom. If they don't, you have to stress to them how important it is to have safe sex. It's not a matter of "maybe I will" or "maybe I won't" - it is a straight out " either you do, or you don't get it", as simple as that.

It's funny you know, I've had quite a few of the workers come up to me and say "that guy doesn't want to wear a condom, but I need the money". At times like that, you have to be very hard on the client, because if you don't wear a condom, then you are not just putting yourself at risk, but everyone else.

Every time I go on a ship, I stress to the seamen, that they must wear a condom. It is a must for the sex industry.

Most of the ships that I have been on recently all have signs or posters that read "safe sex is wearing a condom" and so on, so it is not just the sex industry workers that are aware of the risks. It makes you feel good when it doesn't have to be you hassling the customer to wear a condom, but instead they are the ones insisting.

You will find that most seamen will not go with a worker unless they wear a condom. If they come up with the excuse "oh! I don't like wearing them" or say that they don't go with anyone else (!), you have to stress to them about safer sex and the AIDS virus, and think of it as "If they don't want a condom, then they don't want me."

In the sex industry, the workers are a very close-knit crowd. Even if you don't like someone, you still look out for them because they are in the industry. So, if you want to protect yourselves against the AIDS virus, what better way then to wear a condom.

A Condom Is Safe Sex.

Condoms not only mean safe sex, they can make your life longer, so whoever is reading this article, remember that safe sex is wearing a condom.

Safe Sex Is Wearing A Condom.
Chow!

HIV testing for sex industry workers

Everyone who wants an HIV test is entitled to one.

When a person calls at the Awhina Centre, generally they are asked about the risk they feel themselves to have been in. This helps me to ascertain exactly what their specific needs are. It also lets me know how much they understand about HIV and AIDS generally. In this way, they can be given the information they need and/or be directed to other services, which can accommodate their special needs.

Who we can help...

Due to limited resources, we are unable to attend to all persons in our society. Nor would we pretend to have the skills to manage every person who calls us here. However, we do have access to the supports and networks of greatest assistance to sex workers, IV drug consumers and men who have sex with men. This is important, since all of us covered by these sections of the community, are at greatest potential risk of catching the virus which causes AIDS.

Tests for Sex Workers...

If you are a sex worker considering having a test, it would be important for you to talk with someone from NZ Prostitutes Collective (NZPC). PC could then refer you on to us at Awhina Centre. If you choose to telephone us without going through PC, do let us know you are a sex worker so we can have some idea of your special needs and concerns and there will be no further need for inquiry about your concerns.

One thing to keep in mind is that *there needs to be at least a three month period of time* between your risk situation and the time you take the test. If you had the test before three months had passed, then the result wouldn't be worth the paper it was written on.

Support...

In Wellington, while we wouldn't advise taking the test before the three month period, we are happy to spend some time with you to talk about any concerns you have relating to AIDS and to help you prepare for a future test. The Prostitutes Collective are also really good people to talk with about these concerns.

There are many places you can go for an HIV test. The NZ AIDS Foundation clinics offer an environment that is safe & without prejudgement. HIV/AIDS tests are free &confidential.

The NZ AIDS Foundation centres are: • The Burnett Clinic (Auckland (09) 395-560), • Awhina Centre (Wellington (04) 893-169), • Ettie Rout Clinic (Christchurch (03) 791-953), • The Dunedin AIDS Clinic ((024) 777-740).- ***from Glen Snow, AWHINA Centre (NZ AIDS Foundation), Wellington.***

Living Positively with HIV

"I am a person living with HIV.

To any media persons, we want you to know that we are NOT AIDS 'victims', AIDS 'carriers' or AIDS sufferers - we are people living with HIV/AIDS.

The National People Living with AIDS (NPLWA) Union is committed to being a voice for all people affected by HIV - those who have it, their lovers, families and friends.

Lack of legal protection in terms of human rights and civil liberties mean that HIV is an invisible presence in this country.

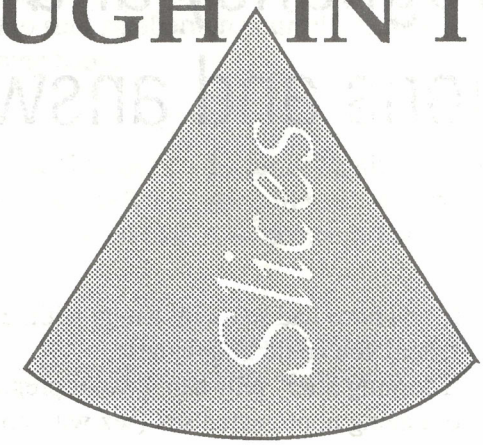
People are afraid - that they will lose their employment, their housing, their friends. This same fear stops people from taking the HIV antibody test.

It is now accepted common wisdom that the earlier the virus is detected, the better position a person is in to exploit the benefits of early medical and complementary health measures. This, in turn, can delay and slow the progression of HIV infection, as well as enhance the immune-preparedness of persons living with HIV.

The earlier that people know their HIV status, the more immune-strengthened (physically, emotionally, spiritually and intellectually) they can be."

- from Jacques Monroe, NPLWA UNION

NOT ENOUGH IN THE PIE!



When I first started to work, everything from the best brands of condoms to different hand relief styles, was new to me. I didn't really question the euphemistically termed "Laundry Money". In fact, at first I naively thought, it might have had something to do with the laundry! Because we sure do an awful lot of towel folding!

But as time wore on, I realised that this innocent term covered wide ranging exploitation! Some might see the physical act as the major part of our work, and if so inclined (possibly voyeuristically), might expect the exploitation to take place, in that part of the job. But laundry/late money-fines and fees have to be the most insidious way we're exploited.

So the clients always want that bit extra, whether it be longer in the room or a better act-at-love. The Vice get in on the act, by concocting work for themselves, to have the required number of hours to justify their jobs. Avaricious television reporters solicit information from unsuspecting sex workers, to increase their ratings. Then it's the parlour owners who scoff the last piece of pie. Lee Ching workers with their increasingly elaborate demands for money: Were we late? Did we need more equipment for the parlour? Are we paying for tea and coffee? Who's cleaning the place? - and so it goes.

Our relationship, workers and owners are very finely tuned and certainly inter-connected. But what other work situation do you know of where you aren't given a wage, not to mention holiday pay, sick leave, uniform allowance etc. Where else are you fined for late attendance, asked to pay for repairs, cleaners equipment?

We want to keep it as two separate businesses, to avoid pimping - and we are only too aware of the struggles involved in running your own business. But make the clients pay - not us.

Some may think that the money we get compensates for all of this. Owners may reassure themselves, by comparing their actions with those of the "real brothel-keepers". The Vice are too busy playing cops and robbers to, even momentarily, consider us as human. The straights still get their voyeurist thrills and the TV executive's their blow jobs. Leaving us with bills, fears, threats and no rights.

Anon

Editor's note: See the letter on page 6

Unwanted pregnancy and abortion -some questions and answers

Could I be pregnant?

If you have had sex with a man without using a contraceptive or the contraceptive failed, you could be pregnant.
'Morning after" pills can prevent pregnancy if you have treatment within 72 hours of having unprotected sex (sex with no birth control).
Another method is the insertion of an IUD within 5 days of unprotected sex.
Both are available from doctors and Family Planning Clinics. They are not alternatives to regular contraception but are emergency measures which can prevent unwanted pregnancy. There are certain risks associated with an IUD and morning after pills. Ask the doctor or nurse about these.

What are the symptoms of pregnancy?

The most common early sing is a missed period. other early signs are sickness, swollen and tender breasts, and a little later, passing urine (pee) more often.

What do I do if I miss my period?

If your period is seven days overdue, you can go for a pregnancy test. Your doctor or Family Planning Clinic can do the test.
Tell the receptionist that you want a pregnancy test, and find out which clinic is most convenient for you to go to. You will need to write down the telephone number and address, and make an appointment at the clinic.
It is important that you seek help as early as possible because if you decide you do not want to continue with the pregnancy and you want to seek an abortion, the earlier it is done in the pregnancy the safer it is for you.

If I am pregnant, what can I do?

There are three options open to you:

(1) Even if the pregnancy is unplanned , you may decide to continue with it and keep the child. If this is the case you should go to your doctor and arrange ante-natal care.

(2) You may decide to continue with the pregnancy and have the child adopted or fostered. Information may be obtained from Social Welfare.

(3) You may decide to seek an abortion.

Who can I talk to?

Before you make a decision, you may want to discuss ALL the options with someone else. This could be your doctor, a family Planning counsellor, or a counsellor at a private counselling centre or an abortion clinic.
If you feel you can, you may discuss it with your parents and/or partner and friends. You may be nervous of their reaction, but many young women found these people very supportive.
Whatever your age, you do not require permission from your partner or parents for an abortion. Doctors or counsellors will not tell others that you have asked for help.

It is an ending of a pregnancy at a time when the embryo or fetus would not be able

What is an abortion?

to live outside the woman's body. An abortion can either happen naturally (ie a miscarriage), or can be induced by a doctor at a licensed clinic or hospital. NEVER attempt to start an abortion yourself, as this could cause serious injury to you or the developing baby.

Where should I go if I decide to seek an abortion?

You should first go to a doctor or Family Planning Clinic for a "Letter of Referral." After getting this letter, you will need an appointment at a clinic which performs abortions. You can ask your doctor or Family Planning for help with this.

What does an abortion involve?

If you are in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy the abortion will be a simple operation, usually performed under local anaesthetic, and you will usually go home the same day.

A thin tube is inserted through the cervix, into the uterus. Gentle suction is applied and the contents of the uterus are removed, This takes about 10 minutes. Some women say the operation doesn't hurt, others say that it is uncomfortable, like heavy period pains.

How can I reduce the risks of an unwanted pregnancy?

If you are having sex with a man and do not want a child, it is essential that you seek contraceptive advice and choose a method of contraception that suits you. If you do not want to go to your own doctor, use your local Family Planning Clinic.

ABORTION - The FACTS

Abortions are more difficult after 12 weeks of pregnancy, and can only be done in certain hospitals. This is why it is very important to see your doctor or Family Planning or a counsellor as soon as you know that you are pregnant. Always explain to the person answering the phone what you need to talk about, and ask for appointment as soon as possible.

IN GENERAL TERMS, WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY ABOUT ABORTION?
The law says that abortion is legal only if 2 doctors (called "certifying consultants") agree that the woman is eligible for an abortion. It must be for one of the following reasons...

- *the mental or physical health of the woman is in serious danger from continuation of pregnancy;*
- *there is a substantial risk that the child would be physically or mentally abnormal;*
- *the pregnancy is the result of incest;*
- *the woman is severely abnormal.*

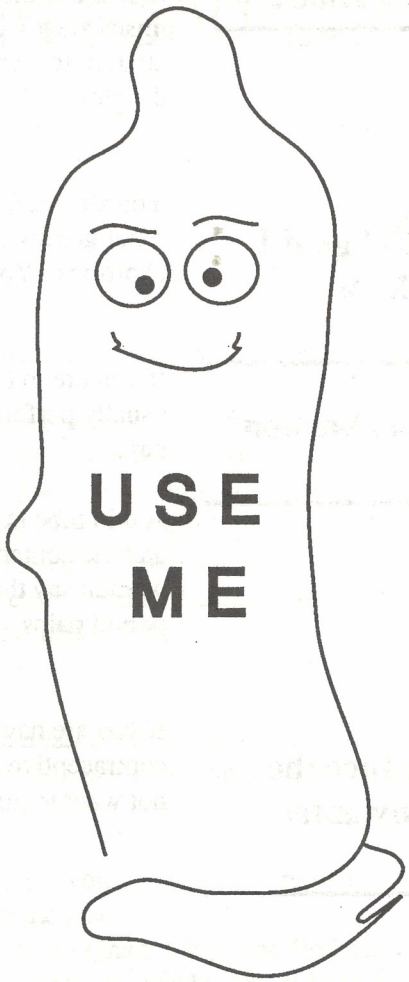
After 20 weeks, stricter reasons are needed to have an abortion approved.

The age of the woman and the fact that the pregnancy was the result of rape are factors which may be taken into consideration.
The abortion must be performed it a licensed institution. Only certain hospitals or clinics are licensed to do abortions.

This information is taken from a pamphlet from the ABORTION LAW REFORM ASSOCIATION of NZ (Inc.) PO Box 74-086, Auckland 5.

CONDOMS

SPECIAL FEATURE



Condoms and the Clients

You have met the client who refuses to wear a condom. He offers you more money, he tells you he is clean, does not have any diseases and is a family man - or has not been asked to wear a condom before. Don't believe it!

His reasons are many, but his motives may be sinister. Imagine if he wants to discredit the sex industry by saying that he has had sex without a condom. Or, if he is evil, and is HIV positive and wants to spread the disease to get back at someone in the industry, who he thinks has given it to him. Nasty thoughts, but fact is stranger than fiction, so don't leave your trust to luck. Remember as well, that he may be one of those guys who takes off the condom when you are not looking. Watch him all the time!

Make sure that you are firm - "No Condom means No Sex" - your life is not worth risking for a few more dollars - or to please him. It can be very awkward if a parlour boss does not support you in this, but I would suggest that you move out and find another parlour with a boss who does - and tell the other girls why.

If you work out on the street, you should tell him at the time you are sussing him out "No Joe, No Go." Just don't be tempted at any price.

-Helen (Outreach Worker)

Why does a condom break?

There are lots of reasons...

- it was torn by fingernails, jewellery or teeth;
- the rubber perished because it was kept in a warm place, like a glovebox or hip pocket;
- the rubber perished because the condom was out of date;
- there was not enough lubrication (wetness);
- the wrong lubricant was used.

Lubricants to use...

- Water-based lubricants such as KY Jelly, Sylke
- Spermicides
- Spit

But **DON'T** use...

- Petroleum jelly
- Baby oil
- Suntan oils
- Vegetable oils
- Butter and margarine
- Coconut butter
- Handlotion

It only takes 60 seconds for some of these things to perish rubber.

CONDOMS AT HOME...

Condoms are something that we all associate with work - right? And when we get home to our partners it's the last thing we want to think about, right?

Making love isn't working= isn't strangers= isn't risky - right?

WRONG!

It seems that more of us working girls get infections at home than we do at work. And why? Because at home, we forget all the safe sex rules, let down our guard, and trust that that lover-boy hasn't been sleeping around while we've been at work.

Maybe some men are totally trustworthy - maybe - but there sure as hell aren't many of them that don't slip off the straight and narrow every now and then - and of course (as we all know) it only takes once, and he's bringing us home a present that we just don't want to know about.

SO - using those "horrible little rubber things" at home - what can we do to make them FUN?

Experiment with different ways of putting them on - try using your mouth (see our article on the "oral roll" in this issue), feet, wrists etc.

Try different brands of lubricant to find which suits you best - remember only use water based lubricants.

Find how many ways you can turn your partner on while putting on a condom on him. Practice putting it on in the light and in the dark. Talk- talk about what feels good and what doesn't. Try out a whole range of condoms, thick, thin, black, green, blue, red and textured.

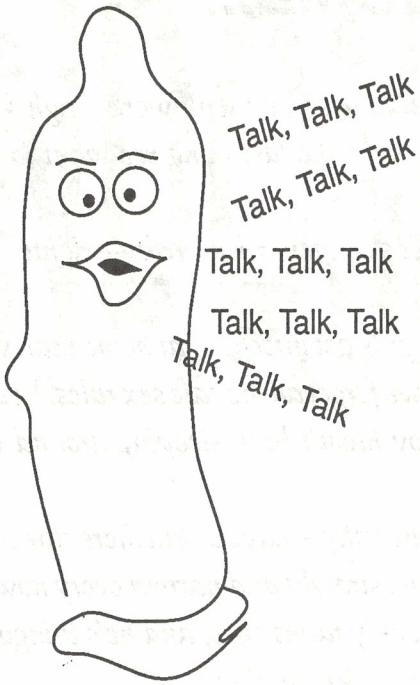
WORK SAFE
PLAY SAFE

Oral sex

For oral sex, cover the condom on something that you really like- honey or syrup, chocolate or shrimp cocktail - just nothing too oily or sharp.

Find out what you like

Take time for sex and explore the erotic zones on each others bodies. Take time to touch, taste and smell, and enjoy all parts of each others bodies. Find out what turns each other on - talk about what turns you on - and try it (often!). If you're having a really good time, using condoms won't be any hassle - just a part of having fun!



WHAT TO SAY

When Your Partner Says..	You Could Say
"It doesn't feel good."	*"I could help you feel better than ever - because I'd feel safer and more relaxed."*
"It's not natural-condoms are gross."	*"I know that's how you feel - would you give me a chance to prove they're fun?"*
"I don't have any condoms."	*"I do!"*
"You don't trust me - I haven't got anything!"	*"I do trust you - it's just that neither of us can be sure."*
"Condoms don't work."	*If we use them properly, it's much safer than not using them at all - we can have fun trying!"*

If the person is agressive or defensive, then don't argue. Try to find out why they're worried. Sharing information about the use and safety of condoms can help. Talk with your partner about trying condoms, and making them fun.

Given the choice, most people will choose sex with condoms rather than no sex at all.

DOING THE ORAL CONDOM ROLL

- ***Step One***

  Use an unlubricated condom. Unroll it a little to loosen it up, and then roll it back.

- ***Step Two***

  With your mouth nearly shut, place the condom in front of your teeth with your upper and lower lips over the condom. Be sure it's facing so it will unroll the right way (so that you can almost inhale it).

- ***Step Three***

  Hold the penis (or practice cucumber) firmly in the palm of your hand and grasp the rim of the condom with the thumb and index finger of the same hand. Tighten your lips and push the rim down over the penis (or cucumber), using your lips and your tongue to guide it in a firm but suggestive, motion. When it comes to the real thing, the more playful, exciting and teasing you are, the more aroused your partner and you will be.

Putting a Condom on a Flaccid Penis

We offer **four steps** for the complex sport of clothing a flaccid penis in rubber. As we read them over, they sound a wee bit like putting together a child's erector set in the wee hours of Christmas morning (!) but once you get the hand of it, it's reasonably simple and a lot of fun for him. Here's how:

1

Place a dab of spermicide in the tip, if the condom is not already lubricated with spermicide. Then, with both hands, stretch the condom and place it over the tip of the penis.

2

Hold the condom and the tip of the penis with one hand and gently stretch the penis up and out.

3

Use your other hand to roll the condom all the way down to the base of the penis, being careful not to get snarled up in his pubic hair, and that there are no air bubbles in the condom.

4

Play with him as you roll the condom on, by continuing to hold the tip of the penis with one hand and stroke the shaft with the other. As he becomes erect, be sure that the condom fits snugly, all the way down to the base of the penis.

Jay's story

Hi, I'm "Jay" and I'm writing a little except from one of my most unsavoury experiences in the industry; my initiation into the sex industry.Am I writing to get it off my chest, or as an example of some of the shocking exploitation that can abound in our vocation? Perhaps for both of those reasons (who knows), but I tell you now, looking back, it is kind of hard to believe that it ever happened - both to me, and here in the Windy city.One of you out there might find some solace, or at least be prepared for some of these exploits, that can be endured, or *just* to learn.

In my case, it happened when I was only fourteen. In recent issues of SIREN, I have read of women raising the issues of managers asking for a shift fee, asking fine money for lateness and so on - including the old "have to have sex with the boss" syndrome, for the job. We all know about these, but apart from the latter, I know these are reasonable compromises to be reached between employees and employers. Working ladies tend to overlook the high expense of overheads, including advertising and a wide range of things along the line of hygiene, in your place of work.

The stipulations I wish to write of within this particular parlour, where I first began my working career, were nothing short of criminal. In actual fact, the male boss was eventually jailed for his participation in carnal knowledge, rape, and living off the earnings of prostitution (take heed unemployed boyfriend bludgers of the working girl - ha, ha, it IS illegal!).

Luckily in that respect, the humiliations we underwent did not go without just penalty, as "Frank" as I will call him, ended up serving a decent jail term and gained severe beatings therein.

One day after school, my friend and I heard a casual conversation with an overly made-up "over the top" cheap jewellery shop manageress, who by all accounts looked like she'd probably have a shack-up deal out the back for sly profits for herself! We were admiring some cheap hippy kind of Josware, each oohing and aahing how much we would both love to afford this stuff.

"...the male boss was eventually jailed for his participation in carnal knowledge, rape, and living off the earnings of prostitution."

Her cue "I know how you would! Come back tomorrow and I'll have arranged for you a part-time job, up the road," turned out to be a massage/sauna parlour. Gina, as I'll call her, and I met after school, met the lady when she sent us up there to meet for an interview with "Frank" (still in our uniforms).

Our idea of massage parlours and their dealings were all a bit vague in our formative 14 year old minds - but both being beyond our years, we were confident in this amazing discovery of being PAID for IT! WOW? (total bullshit!). We organised to work in the weekends, both telling our parents each was staying at the others place - they never rang to confirm.

We cinched the deal, and set off to earn our fortune - fortune it seemed to us too, $100-150 each was a bit in the early seventies to anybody, for the hours we put in at least.

Here's how it went. We would go to school, lie to our parents about the weekends and go to work. (Frank had an upstairs flat, where we could stay over night). When we commenced employment, he took a photo of us both to put in his little photo album of employees. We didn't wear clothes, instead we slouched around in towels.

Frank told us NEVER to wear condoms, he said you don't get pregnant to clients - and we half believed him. Later on I got pregnant and didn't know it. I got no support from the "boss", only from Mum. But after the abortion, I returned to work. I was feeling upset and accordingly hormonally imbalanced. Frank called me into his room and wanted "sex to keep the job". I couldn't stand him touching me, so I objected and Frank yelled at me and fired me. At least that was better than when he wanted anal sex, on the sheepskin rug in the lounge.

"Frank told us NEVER to wear condoms, he said you don't get pregnant to clients - and we half believed him."

The no-condom bit also included oral, so Gina and I were often to be found in the showers being ill. Frank took a third of each earn 50 for sex, (15 for him) 30 for oral (10 for him), 15 for hand reliefs (5 for him).

Frank had this special offer for the clients, "the modelling session." He would supply the camera or the client could bring his own, these included those time-lapse cameras where he could film himself performing indecencies. We had a couple of times when we had a request when not having "massaged" them before, and the client saying he had seen the photos in a pub, or from a mate.

Well then, I must come to our wages, because (in those days) we were paid a healthy commission for cash massages. Frank began to shortcut this and instead of ten dollars we were paid with a tab of acid, or a stick of budda or hash. Another time, we had some newspaper reporters come through the place, "Rest assured," cried Frank. The next issue of a local rag saw a betowelled profile of me on the phone. Luckily, since then, a law has been passed about the age limit of working in a parlour.

But the awareness of AIDs was not as such. Being AIDs aware and cautious, I know that the AIDs virus can remain dormant for at least 10 years, so he can be held responsible for that threat. I will never trust/forgive myself or him for that time of my life.

The Venus Flytrap

A Clients' Viewpoint

As a venus fly trap, the parlour is always a trap. Its sickly sweet delights entice, and ultimately imprison, those who come into contact with it. The prospect of a quick flirt with the parlour is as the one quick drink to an alcoholic. Once started, there is no stopping. Periods of abstinence are invariably followed by one more harmless encounter, leading inevitably to further

entrapment.This has little to do with sex. Sex is the bait, the enticement, the lure. It is not what ultimately addicts people to the parlour. The parlour is warm, predictable, safe. A place to visit with no pressure. A place where the mask put on the outside world may be dropped. It is a place where the "emperor may wear no clothes" without comment.

Alternatively, it is a place where a mask may be created. At the parlour, I can be what I cannot be outside. I'm sure people titter and giggle at my feeble attempts at pretence, but at the parlour I feel I am accepted, not for what I am, but for the appearance I create.

This is a dangerous game. How easy it is to become what we pretend. At the instant we cross the line from what we are to what we create, we fall into the bottom of the flytrap. There is no escape. My becoming what I pretend to be, is reinforced. While falling into the trap, there is no reality. The parlour is everything. All existence focusses on one hour per week. The weeks become desolate, focussing only on a single hour.

For one hour a week, stripped of its mundane elements, the essential elements of a relationship are concentrated. No doing dishes, no ironing, no vacuuming, putting on make-up. For one hour there is company, some-one to share the week with, laughter, tears, sex. No relationship outside can fulfill with such intensity. The road back to the parlour from an outside relationship is clearly marked. Yet the parlour experience, too is empty, It is sweet and sickly, lacking substance. There is no caring. The parlour is very uneven. It takes, but does not give. It promises only entraps.

For now swim, stuck at the bottom of the trap. I hope we can all escape before it is too late.

PREPARING TO *LEAVE*

Before I started working, I'd some times dabbled with the idea, as I'm sure a lot of people have. There's so many misconceptions and a lot of propaganda about prostitution. Apart from the usual voyeuristic stuff I'd wonder what effect it would have attaching a dollar value to yourself? I used to think that you were only attaching it to your body. Now I know it's not that simple to divide yourself up in those darkened rooms - the lines get stretched!

Upon reflection, it's not so much the possible effect on your physical or mental health, but a more insidious effect. The subtle addiction, of becoming a consumer item.

Financial necessity and isolation (and my own private nose-thumbing at a society I found corrupt) brought me into the job. For a while, it seemed like a fair, simple bargain, with the roles clearly defined, but they've quickly lost their crispness. Maybe this happened quicker for me, as I no longer used "the real world", as a measure.

Reassessing the effects of the job, I'm reminded of the "GAME", of it all, and how quickly you learn, that it's not so much your physical expertise, but how good you are at this game. And it's the role-playing, that allows the addiction of leak in. It's when you start to ask, what is being paid for, and what you're giving, that you start to figure the cost.

Once when I was quite new to working, (as I write, I'm reminded that this encounter, among others, is part of the legacy I leave with), I had one of those arrogant, suited, soft-cocks. All sickly smiles, as he grabs at you, while telling you about his unsuspecting wife. He wanted the works, and couldn't do any of it, because he'd stuffed himself, with too much rich food and alcohol. As his cock got softer, his smile turned to a snarl. I worked really hard, but finally gave up. He got nasty, blamed me, demanded more, saying he'd paid for the use of my body With his soft cock in my hand, I explained that he'd paid for a service which he got! But this was the first time I started to question the cost.

So I began to divide or commodify myself. It started at work but quickly moved into my private life. You re-invent yourself, depending on the situation. Who knows where the characters come from?

But we all have performances for the room. Learning them, are the first addictive steps. As you observe what effect they have, so you're hooked. When I played it well with clients I felt pleased, smug. When it happened, accidentally out of work, I felt sick.

There's nothing wrong in producing the required response, especially when it's an integral part of the job. Eventually though, I found myself unable to react spontaneously. I started to realise what a luxury it was, to be able to tell the truth. I found that the result of this role-playing was identity loss. This is where the client's desires for certain physical attributes come in. Their demands can mould you! Are you: blonde, tall, small, big breasted, young, old, their sort? (I've often wondered what hair colouring has to do with sexual prowess?).

Though we choose to "play", and are compensated financially, once you take part, in the game - so you're a player. The roles you adopt, seem to squeeze out any "real" identity, leaving you needing the "fix" of work.

"You re-invent yourself, depending on the situation. Who knows where the characters come from?"

As I said before, I partly decided to work, as a way to reject "reality", this withdrawal is common to a lot of us, and what heightens our isolation. And it's easy to stay, when the clients remind you of the addiction of their "real-world". It's often those petty rules, which have brought them. So the "outside", starts to look like just another version of our cloistered world. I hope we all get out in time. I hope that, that one character we've left on watch, stays awake long enough, for all of us, to get our own versions, of the "house-by-the-sea".

I'm afraid to go back out. It's so bright, there's so little intimacy and even less honesty, but I'll leave, having learnt about honesty and truth. I know, there'll be hundreds of moments in which I'll miss you all!!! See you.....

SAFE USING
Clean fits - Clean hits

Never share needles, syringes and/or equipment with anyone.
This includes your sister/brother, mother, grandmother or your lover - especially your lover.

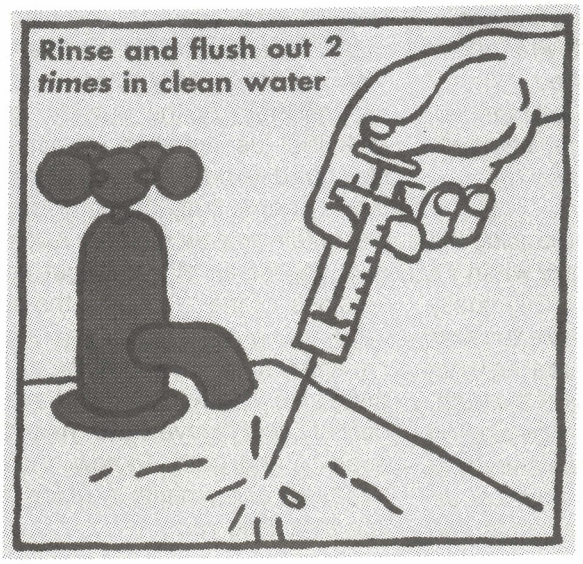
Even if you have fucked your partner without a condom doesn't mean that you may as well share your fit with him/her too. The risks just aren't the same. While you may be lucky and not contract the HIV/AIDS virus sexually from your partner (if she/he is a carrier), the chances of you contracting the HIV/AIDS virus through needle sharing are much higher.

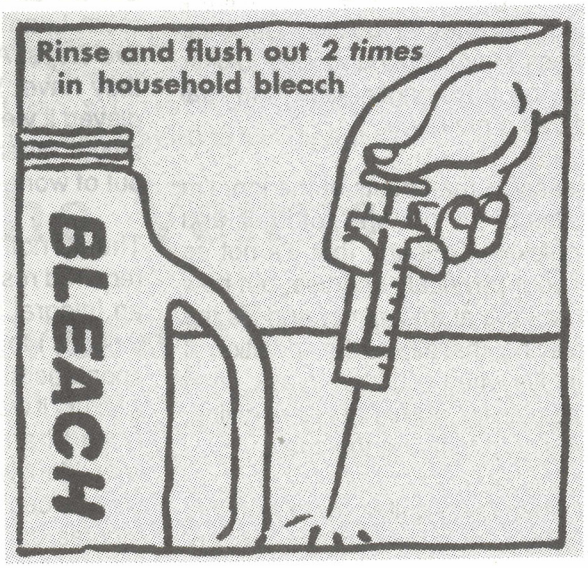
NEW FITS ALWAYS - The best advice is to always, always use a new fit...**but if you can't get a clean fit, there are other ways to clean your works.**

WATER-BLEACH-WATER - any type of bleach is a good disinfectant. Janola (or similar products) are good. You don't need to dilute them. Just follow these steps...but if you can't use bleach, the next safest thing is **WATER-METHYLATED SPIRITS-WATER** - if you have no clean fits and no bleach, methylated spirits or any type of alcoholic spirit can be used (vodka, gin etc.) This doesn't mean beer or wine, as they are not strong enough. White spirits are better than dark.

Use the same method as with the bleach and your fit should be sterile enough to re-use.

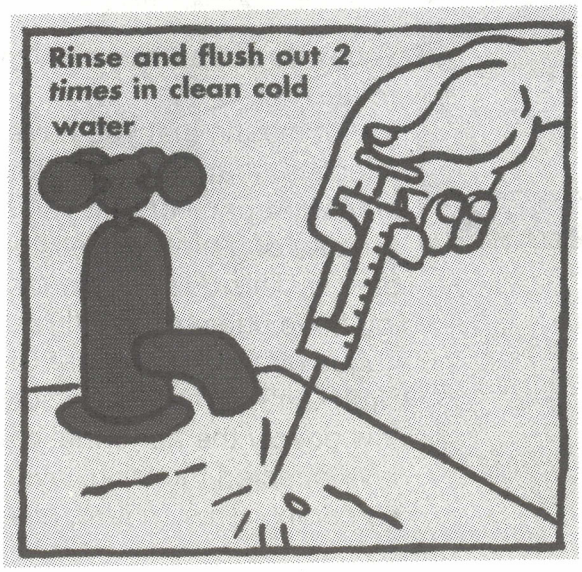
Where no clean needles are available:





The only way to be completely sure is to always use a clean fit, so remember the opening times of your local needle exchange.

Only clean needles always



What to do if something goes wrong while using

The best advice is to **"GET TO A DOCTOR, OR ACCIDENT OR EMERGENCY CLINIC OR AN URGENT DOCTOR."**

Damaged veins

If you have injected into a vein which is damaged (won't bend when pushed) or caused a small tear in the vein, the vein will haemorrhage or burst.

This causes blood to collect in the area around the tear. The area affected becomes swollen, hard, painful and red.

Eventually (within 12 to 36 hours), streaks will lead up from this area and blood poisoning sets in.

This needs anti-biotic treatment immediately.

If left untreated, gangrene develops and the limb will need to be amputated within several hours or death will result.

Even small clots from a vein tear may form inside a vein, get dislodged and travel around in the blood, and lodge in a small vein in the heart or brain, causing a heart attack, stroke or death.

Bruising

For small areas of bruising, you can buy without a prescription "Lasonil" or Hirudoid" ointment. (If the chemist asks why you want to use it, explain that you have strained a muscle).

Massage this gently into the bruised area (avoiding broken skin) and if painful, you may bandage it lightly - not too tightly as this delays healing. Bandaging helps the ointment get through the skin to 'dissolve' the bruise. Leave the bandage on for 8-10 hours and re-apply if necessary.

If this doesn't help within one day, see a doctor, as the bruise may have become infected and you may need anti-biotics.

For further information on your local drug user group or needle and syringe exchange scheme contact:

ADIO
227A Symonds St,
Auckland
(09) 398 519

I V Union
8 Amesbury St,
Box 1942
Palmerston North
(063) 71 059

WIDE
282 Cuba St,
Wellington
(04) 828 791

CIVDURG
12 New Regent St,
Christchurch
(03) 652 293

DIVA
Dunedin
(024) 792 300

or
HOTLINE
Tollfree (09) 395 560

"Smear Tactics"

Cervical Smears - Are You Having Regular Check-Ups?

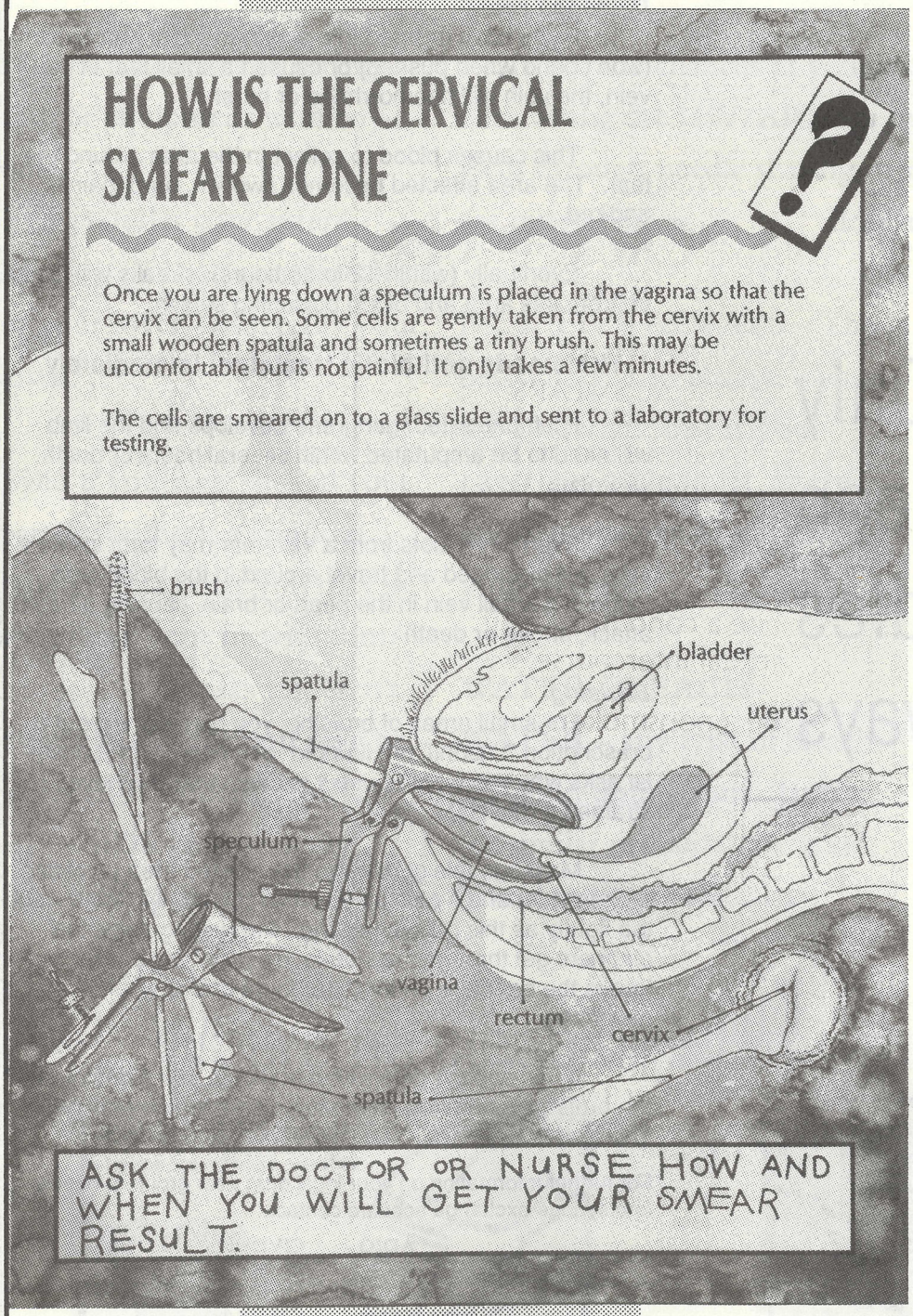


Illustration from 'Smear Tactics' leaflet produced by the Cancer Society of New Zealand and the Department of Health, New Zealand, 1989. Code 4301.

What is a cervical smear?

It is a way of checking the health of your cervix. A sample of cells are taken from the surface of the cervix, and examined under a microscope to check for any signs of change.

Why do you have them?

A smear will show if there have been any changes in the cells of the cervix, which could lead to cancer. If changes are found, treatment can be given to remove these cells and prevent cervical cancer from developing.

When do you need to have a smear?

Because we all come into the "high risk" category for smears (more than five sexual partners in your whole life!), we should all be having a smear at least once a year. High risk also includes smoking, having the wart virus, starting sexual intercourse before 18 years and having sex with men who have had several partners.

What does an abnormal smear mean?

It means that you have an infection, that they didn't take the smear properly or that you have an area of abnormal cells on the cervix. This does not mean that you have cancer. The three stages of abnormality are Cin1, Cin2, Cin3. What this indicates is how deeply the abnormal cells have affected the 'skin' layer of the cervix. This, in turn, affects ...

"Smear Tactics"

...what sort of treatment you will need.

This could mean:-
- freezing-cryosurgery
- heat treatment-diathermy
- laser beam surgery
- cone biopsy.

There are pro's and con's for each method . The type depends on where the abnormal area is, the size of it, the degree of abnormality and what you would prefer in terms of anaesthetics and treatment.

WORK SAFE PLAY SAFE

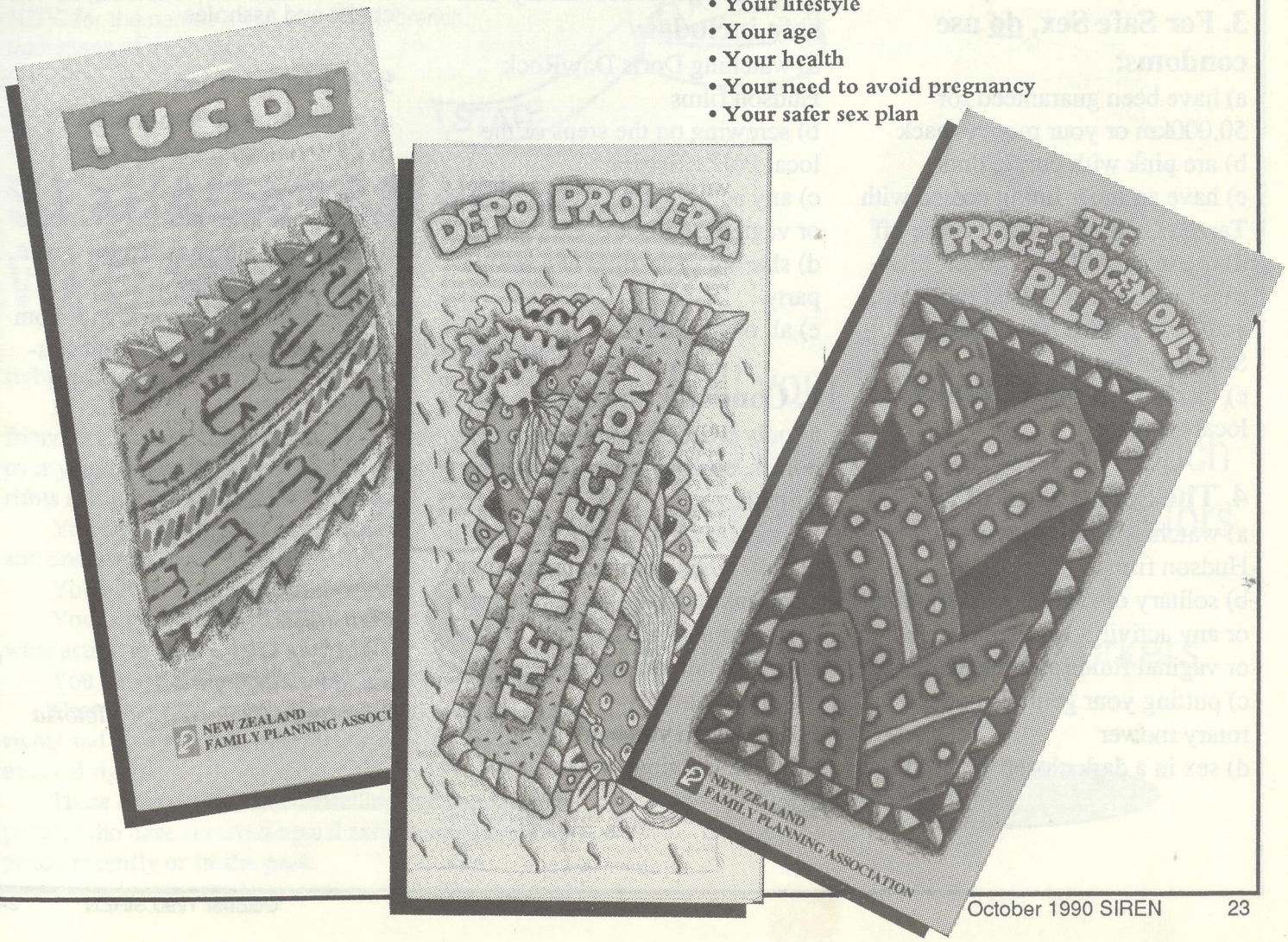
CONTRACEPTION

Everyone's talking about condoms - but what about the pro's and cons of other methods of birth control? Following is some information to help you decide what the best method is for you. For extra help and advice, contact your health worker, family planning clinic or doctor.

REMEMBER -
NONE OF THESE THINGS PREVENT YOU FROM CATCHING AN STD

The method of contraception you choose, needs to suit

- **Your lifestyle**
- **Your age**
- **Your health**
- **Your need to avoid pregnancy**
- **Your safer sex plan**



does Doris Day have safe sex? test your knowledge with this quick quiz!

1. The main way of passing on the HIV is by:
a) not paying a brothel bond
b) watching a dirty movie
c) exchanging blood, semen or vaginal fluid with a partner
d) listening to Kylie Minogue
e) practising paganism
(Note: d and e, although similar, are different answers!)

2. For Safe Sex, don't use condoms:
a) given to you by your worst enemy
b) made of barbed wire
c) bought at a Catholic or Jewish jumble sale
d) that have already been used
e) all of the above

3. For Safe Sex, do use condoms:
a) have been guaranteed for 50,000km or your money back
b) are pink with purple dots
c) have an inner lining coated with Tarzan Grip, so it won't come off
d) are made of latex rubber, lubricated with water- based lubricant, and have passed New Zealand Standards tests
e) that have been blessed by your local minister

4. The Safest kind of Sex is:
a) watching Doris Day/Rock Hudson films
b) solitary or mutual masturbation or any activity where blood,semen or vaginal fluids aren't exhanged
c) putting your genitals under a rotary mower
d) sex in a dark closet

5. Sex that is definitely unsafe includes:
a) watching Doris Day/Rock Hudson films
b) screwing on the steps of the local Police Station
c) any activity where blood, semen or vaginal fluids are exchanged
d) sharing your dildo at a bridge party
e) all of the above

6. Condoms should be used:
a) only where sex involves sheep, horses, cows or other farmyard animals
b) only on a full moon
c) only when your sex partner threatens to nuke you if you don't
d) during any sexual activity where blood, semen or vaginal fluids may be exhanged
e) only when you can't get it off from the last time, a week ago

7. The main reason condoms break is:
a) your ex-lover has put ground glass in them
b) your partner is so hot that they melt rubber
c) they have been used with an oil-based lubricant likeVaseline
d) the penis is just too big (dream on...!)
e) the chemist gives you party balloons by mistake

8. Anal sex is:
a) filthy, degrading and disgusting
b) something only perverts do
c) OK if your mother says so
d) only dirty if it's done correctly
e) the most likely activity in which HIV can be transmitted
f) the only possible sex between cocks and assholes

9. A bisexual is:
a) a vehicle with two wheels
b) someone who has sex once every two years
c) someone who has sex on a bike
d) someone who has sex on a bike once every two years
e) someone who has sex with both males and females and can transmit HIV just like everyone else

-Reprinted from "Working Girl ,9", the newsletter of the Prostitutes Collective of Victoria

UPdate

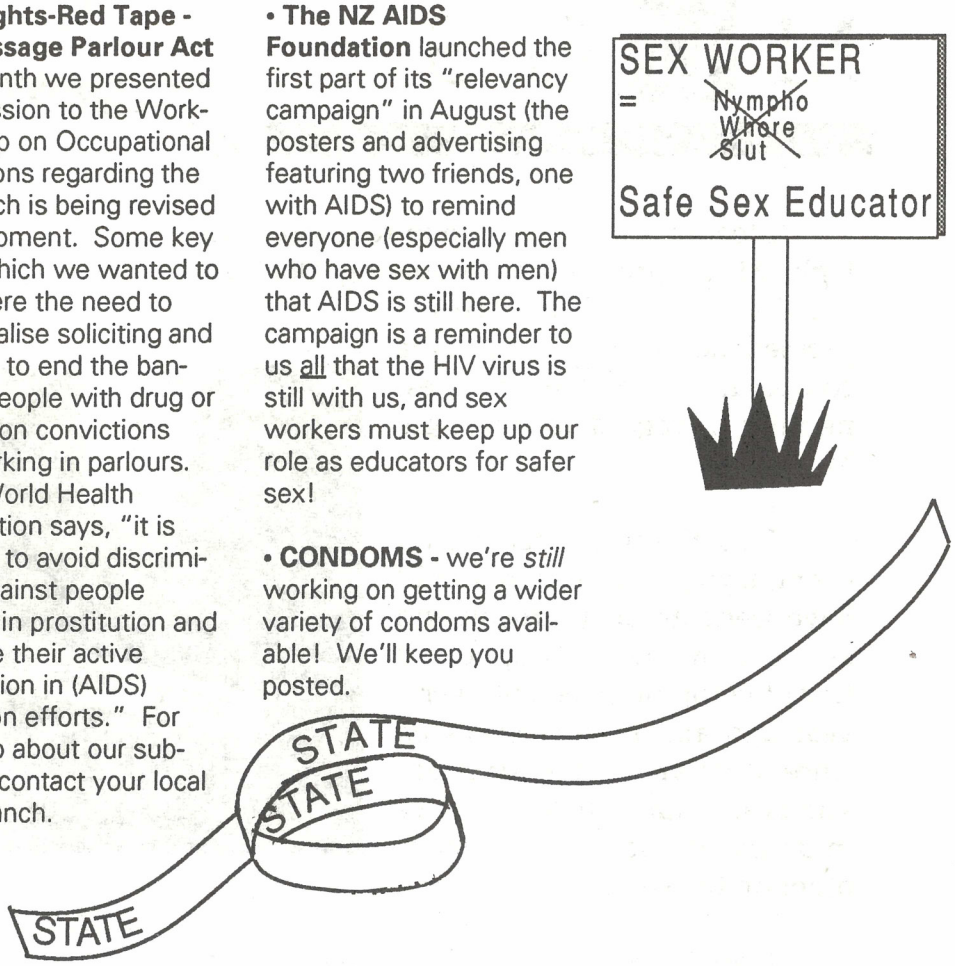
• Tragically, the industry lost another worker, **Debbie Purdy,** up in Auckland last month. A sad reminder that we need to keep our **Ugly Mugs file** up to date. Please fill in the form at the back of this issue of SIREN with information about your Ugly Mug clients and get it to your local NZPC branch.

• **Australian visit** - we've just had a visit from sex workers from the Outreach Project in New South Wales, and have also been in touch with the Prosititutes Collective of Victoria, exchanging information and sharing resources on the sex industry. If you're planning on travelling, contact your local NZPC for the names and addresses of the support groups in OZ.

• **Red Lights-Red Tape - The Massage Parlour Act** - last month we presented a submission to the Working Group on Occupational Regulations regarding the Act, which is being revised at the moment. Some key points which we wanted to make were the need to decriminalise soliciting and the need to end the banning of people with drug or prostitution convictions from working in parlours. As the World Health Organisation says, "it is essential to avoid discrimination against people engaged in prostitution and to ensure their active participation in (AIDS) prevention efforts." For more info about our submission, contact your local NZPC branch.

• **The NZ AIDS Foundation** launched the first part of its "relevancy campaign" in August (the posters and advertising featuring two friends, one with AIDS) to remind everyone (especially men who have sex with men) that AIDS is still here. The campaign is a reminder to us all that the HIV virus is still with us, and sex workers must keep up our role as educators for safer sex!

• **CONDOMS** - we're *still* working on getting a wider variety of condoms available! We'll keep you posted.



SEXUAL ASSAULT-WHO TO CALL

As a survivor of sexual assault you have important rights.

If you've been sexually assualted by a client, a lover, a friend, an acquaintance or a stranger, your right to control over your own body has been violated, and your general rifhts as a human being must be restored.

You have the right to be treated with dignity, respect and understanding.

You have the right to information.

You have the right to make your own decisions about what action to take.

You have the right to privacy and confidentiality.

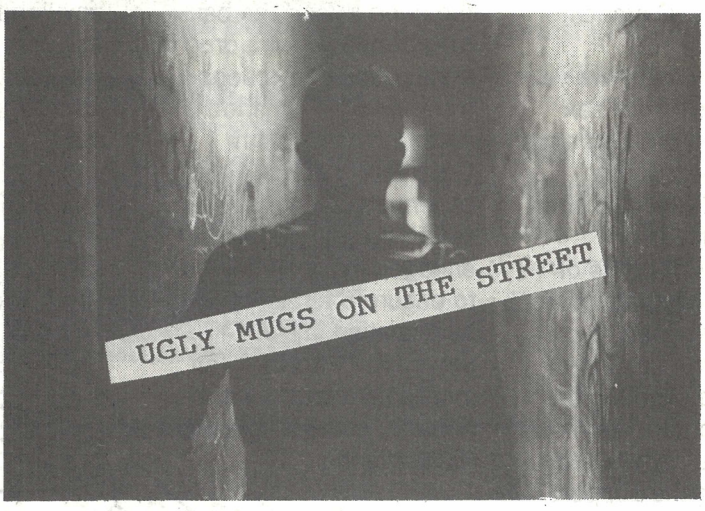
Centres against sexual assault aim to maintain your rights and give accurate information on your legal and medical rights.

These centres provide counselling and support to people who have survived sexual assualt whether it happened **recently or in the past.**

Call your local NZPC branch, and we can put you in touch with sympathetic counsellors, who understand the needs of sex workers.

UGLY MUGS

I feel that this is a time to re-inforce our Ugly Mugs programme following Debbie's murder. The Police have expressed their appreciation for the co-operation they have had, especially in regard to our Ugly Mugs list.



Had the murderer been a client, trying to find him would have been extremely difficult, and as we know, Leah disappeared from the top of Queen St over a year ago and hasn't been seen since. Rosalyn was found unconscious after an Ugly Mug, so we must try and look out for each other on the street.

If you have a client who turns out to be an Ugly Mug, let us know with as much detail as possible for inclusion in the Ugly Mugs list.

When you are working, have someone keep an eye on you when you get into a vehicle, so that they get a description of the vehicle. Sometimes you may get dumped out of the vehicle - try and memorise the vehicle's registration number if you can.

Be Careful Out There. Practice Safe Sex. Look After One Another

If you would like the Ugly Mugs list sent to you regularly, just call our Collective branches and ask.

Ugly Mugs on the Street

Having this list and sharing your knowledge of Ugly Mugs with others helps to make working in the sex industry safer. If you have had trouble with a client, fill out the description sheet on the next page, then phone it through to your branch of NZPC (AK-3666-106/WTN 828-791/CHCH 652-595/DUNEDIN 792-300 - or bring it to us.

UGLY MUGS

DESCRIPTION OF VEHICLE
Colour
Make
Distinguishing features
Number Plate

DESCRIPTION OF MUG
Name
Age
Height
Hair/Beard
Eyes
Distinguishing features (tatoos etc)
Nationality
What does he do?
Weapons
Credit Card #

NZPC

NZ Prostitutes Collective
National Office PO Box 11-412
Manners St, Wellington.

We provide...

- Support and a friendly environment
- Condoms and water-based lubricants
- Magazines for workers in the sex industry
- Information on HIV/AIDS and other STDs
- Referral service to sympathetic doctors and other complementary agencies

NZPC Centres

- **Auckland**
  227a Symonds St
  Phone (09) 3666-106
- **Wellington**
  282 Cuba St
  Phone (04) 828-791
- **Christchurch**
  Phone (03) 652-595
- **Dunedin**
  Phone (024) 792-300

So

Pop in and have a chat or phone us up! If you get the answer-phone, be sure to leave a message and someone will call you back as soon as possible.